S/N 08/902809 PATENT

<u>IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE</u>

Applicant:

Klaus F. Schuegraf et al.

Examiner: Ori Nadav

Serial No.:

08/902809

Group Art Unit: 2811

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Docket No.: 303.278US1

Title:

SELECTIVE SPACER TO PREVENT METAL OXIDE FORMATION

DURING POLYCIDE REOXIDATION

RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR § 1.111

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

REMARKS

This response is accompanied by a Petition, as well as the appropriate fee, to obtain a one-month extension of the period for responding to the Office Action, thereby moving the deadline for response from 8 January 2004 to 8 February 2004.

In response to the Office Action dated 8 October 2003, the applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the following remarks. Claims 23-31 and 36-65 are pending, and are rejected. None of the claims have been amended.

Telephone Interviews

The applicant thanks Examiner Nadav for the telephone interviews granted on Wednesday, 7 January 2004, and Friday, 9 January 2004, between himself and the applicant's representative Mr. Mates (Reg. No. 35,271). The Office Action and the substance of this response were discussed.

Rejections of Claims Under §112

Claims 23-25, 29, 30, 38, 44-50, 54, 59-62, and 64 were rejected under 35 USC §112, first paragraph. Claims 23-25, 29, 30, 38, 44-50, 54, 59-62, and 64 were rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph. The applicant respectfully traverses.

Claims 23-25, 29, 30, 38, and 44 were rejected under 35 USC §112 in a rejection that was appealed to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences (Board) on 2 June 2000 by the applicant. The Board issued a Decision on Appeal on 26 February 2003 reversing the rejection